20 centres across 11 States/UTs relating to important sectors like mining, textiles, metals, gems and jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during the quarter October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown was observed in the export oriented units. The decline in employment observed in gems and jewellery, transport and automobiles was 8.58 percent, 4.03 percent and 2.42 percent respectively. In a similar survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 3192 units in 21 centres across 11 States/UTs relating to sectors like textiles and apparel, handloom/powerloom, leather, metals, gems and jewellery, automobiles, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 period. The sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems and jewellery, textiles, IT-BPO, handloom/powerloom and automobiles. However, decline in employment during January-March, 2009 has been observed in leather, metals and transport. The Department of Commerce has separately conducted some surveys, the results of which are given below:

Sl. No.	Period of Survey	Job losses (Direct and Indirect) in persons
1.	Aug.' 2008-Oct' 2008	65,507
2.	Aug.' 2008-16.01.09	1,09,513
3.	Aug.' 08-09.02.09	1,17,602
4.	Aug.' 08-28.02.09	1,19,159

(c) In order to counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown on the Indian economy, the Government provided three fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increased expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The RBI took a number of monetary easing and liquidity enhancing measures to facilitate flow of funds from the financial system to meet the needs of productive sectors. Some of the measures to provide employment and give relief in the case of job loss include implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled to about 50 percent of wages upto a period of one year and medical benefits in the case of job loss, skill upgradation/training programmes, National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (NREGS) etc. Employment was provided to more than 4.47 crore households in 2008-09 under NREGS.

Rise in consumer price index

1068. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumer price index rose to 10.2 per cent in May whereas the wholesale price inflation remains less than half; and

(b) if so, what steps Government is planning to reduce the consumer price index, which affects the ordinary citizen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Year-on-year (Y-o-Y) inflation rates, based on the wholesale price index (WPI) and consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) are indicated in the table 1 below:

Table 1: Y-o-Y Inflation rates based on WPI and CPI (%)

	WPI	CPI-IW	CPI-AL and CPI-RL
APR	1.31	8.70	9.09
MAY	0.43 (Provisional)	8.63	10.21

(b) The Government monitors the price situation regularly, with price stability being high on its agenda. Measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities include selective ban on exports and futures trading in food grains, zero import duty on select food items, permitting imports of pulses and sugar by public sector undertakings, distribution of imported pulses and edible oils through the PDS and release of higher quota of non-levy sugar.

Loans from the World Bank

1069. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is negotiating more loans from the World Bank to fund infrastructure development and to upgrade urban transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the past projects are running far behind schedule to the extent Government has been paying commitment charges of several hundred crores every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to check such charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Negotiations with the World Bank for Orissa State Road Project for an amount of US $ 250 million, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for an amount of US$ 600 million and Haryana Power System Improvement Project for an amount of US$ 330 million were held during July 2008, September 2008 and June 2009 respectively.

(c) and (d) Commitment charge is payable on the amount of loan yet to be drawn and is an integral part of the general terms and conditions of loan from the World Bank. The commitment charge has to be paid as the entire loan amount is not disbursed in one instalment. Depending on the nature of project and its implementation schedule, the disbursement takes place over the project implementation period. Drawing the entire loan amount in one instalment